

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – SWARLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Purpose of report:

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise regarding the proposed introduction of No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions at The Avenue / Leamington Lane junction, as a result of road safety concerns in the vicinity of Swarland First School.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that in view of the consultation exercise, the No Waiting at any Time Restrictions should be introduced as proposed.

Key issues

- 1) Scheme being funded by Councillor Thorne.
- 2) The scheme will improve road safety in the area.
- 3) Supported by Local Councillor, Swarland Parish Council, Swarland First School and all residents who responded to the consultation.

Report Author

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BACKGROUND

- 1) Concerns have been raised by Swarland First School, Swarland Parish Council and local residents about road safety in the vicinity of Swarland First School. Of particular concern is the traffic congestion at school start and finish times. In view of this, Councillor Thorne and Swarland Parish Council requested that officers consult residents on the possible introduction of No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions at The Avenue / Leamington Lane junction.
- 2) These proposals were the subject of a consultation exercise that involved the delivery of a consultation letter to five households, Swarland First School and Swarland Pre-School, and approximately 30 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix 1).

CONSULTATION

- 3) The consultation exercise ended on 15th January 2014. Three responses were received, with all in favour of the proposals. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4) North East Ambulance Service was the only statutory consultee who responded to the consultation, they supported the proposals, however indicated that response times may be affected.

IN FAVOUR

- 5) Whilst indicating their support of the proposals on the response form provided, the following comments were made:-
 - Parking restrictions are long overdue
 - Scheme will significantly improve road safety in the vicinity of the school.

OBJECTIONS

- 6) No objections were made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7) From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concerns raised in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The results of the consultation exercise show that the majority of residents who responded support the proposals. It is therefore recommended that the No Waiting at any Time parking Restrictions are introduced as proposed.

- 8) The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

APPENDIX INDEX

Appendix 1 – Consultation Letter and Plan

Appendix 2 – Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File Ref: M/GEN/102/50(A)

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed from Councillor Thorne's Local Members Small Schemes Budget
Human Resources:	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Residential area, route to schools, speeding traffic and associated visibility issues.
Crime & Disorder	Scheme will reduce vehicle speeds and promote a safer environment.
Customer Considerations	Alternative parking arrangements will need to be made. The measures may marginally affected response times of Emergency Services.
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Swarland Parish Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Shilbottle

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member and Executive Director:

Executive Director of Local Services, Barry Rowland
Executive Member, Ian Swithenbank, Streetcare and Environment

Subject:

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Swarland First School

Consultation:

3 Responses
All in favour

Decision Taken:

To approve the proposed No Waiting at Any Time Parking Restrictions at The Avenue / Leamington Lane junction at Swarland First School.

Signature of Executive Director



Date

19/03/15

APPENDIX 1 – COPY OF CONSULTATION LETTER AND PLAN

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: M/Gen/102/50(A)
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Neil Snowdon
Direct Line: 01670 624128
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: HighwaysDesign@northumberland.gov.uk
Thursday 4th December 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Parking Restrictions – Swarland First School

Concerns have been raised by Swarland First School, Swarland Parish Council and local residents about road safety in the vicinity of Swarland First School.

Of particular concern is the traffic congestion at school start and finish times. In view of this, the County Council is consulting on proposed No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions at The Avenue / Leamington Lane junction, as shown on the attached plan.

It is anticipated that the introduction of these restrictions will improve road safety at the school, by offering more visibility in a crucial area at key times of the day.

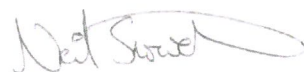
The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that all comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is Thursday 15th January 2015. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Neil Snowdon
Senior Programme Officer

CONTRACT
DRAWING No. 1 OF 1
A3

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

KEY
PROPOSED NO WAITING
AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS

REVISION
Drawing Status
By Date Rev.
CONSULTATION

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH,
NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000

Job Title
SWARLAND FIRST SCHOOL

Drawing Title
PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY
TIME RESTRICTIONS

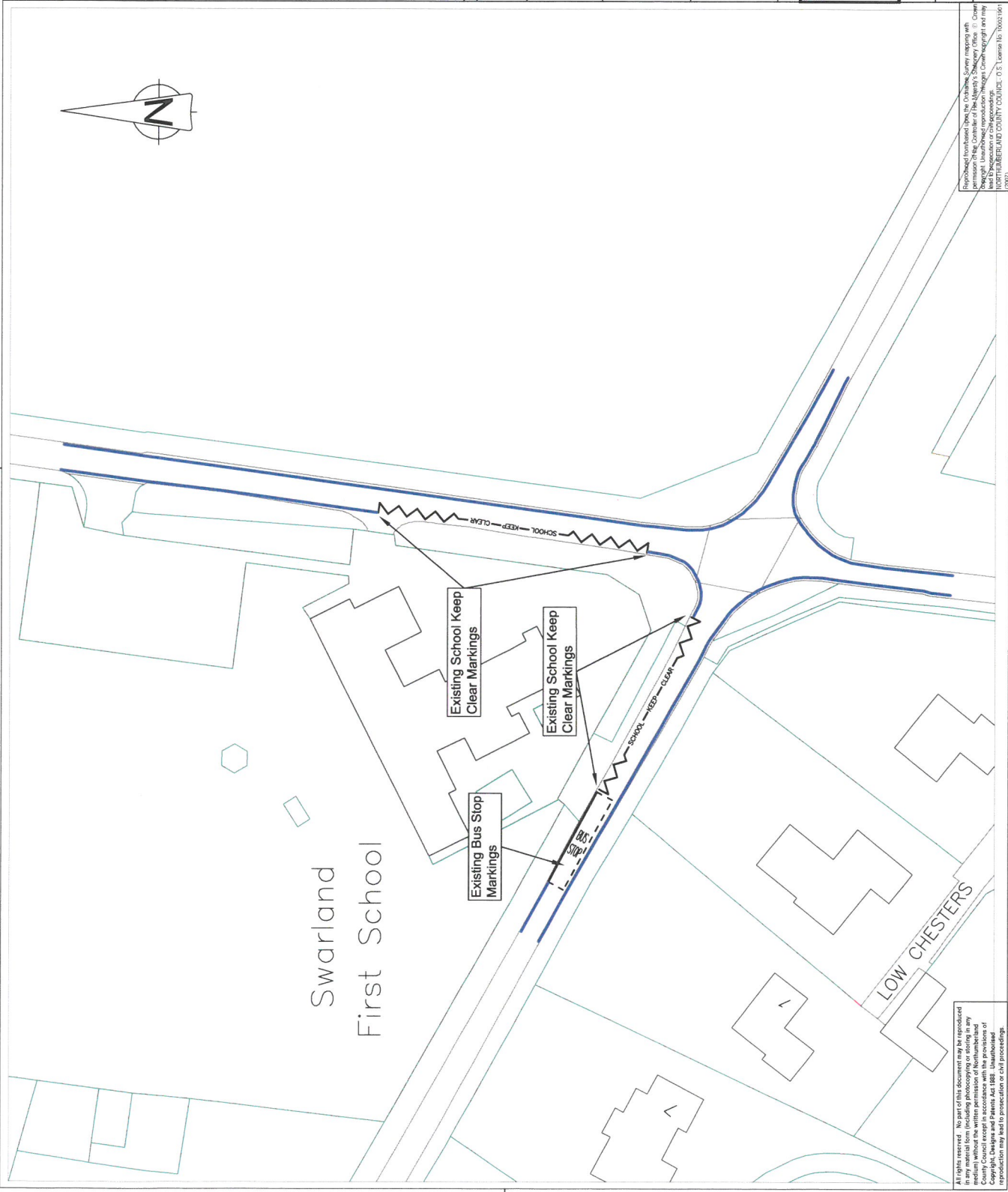
Scales NOT TO SCALE

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Drn NS Date OCT 14 Checked Passed

Drawing Number

Rev
Negative Number/Job Number/File Number



APPENDIX 2 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
Emergency Services		1			Thank you for your letter of 4th December 2014 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
Leamington lane	NE65 9JP	1			As Head teacher of Swarland first school, I fully support the proposed parking restrictions. The duty of care to children, staff, parents and the public is of utmost importance to us. Children coming to school on foot endeavour to cross the road at the Leamington Lane / The avenue junction safely, only to have their visibility restricted by parked vehicles. Vehicles passing through the junction are forced to make last minute manoeuvres to avoid parked vehicles. Many of the larger farm vehicles cannot pass through the junction when obstructed by parked vehicles, so resort to using the soft verge. Our staff find it increasingly difficult to enter and leave the school car park due to parked cars obstructing their view. In conclusion, I feel it is important to put the parking restrictions in place to improve the road safety at the school.
Low Chesters	NE65 9ND	1			I fully support and endorse these proposals. Our house is adjacent to the area concerned and have witnessed a number of near misses due to parking too close to the crossroads. Whilst I appreciate parents need to park within reasonable distance of the school - many have younger children in tow when they are dropping off school kids, a number seem unable to appreciate the risks they are causing by parking too close to the junction. Appeals made by the Head teacher seem to fall on deaf ears so in my view more formal restrictions are long overdue.
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